

to providing our Nation's less fortunate children with the resources they need to develop early reading skills. I ask all of my colleagues to support this resolution. I have no requests for time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, obviously the literacy issue is one of great significance to all age demographics out there. However, if we can create a program such as Toys for Tots whereby we combat illiteracy and raise awareness of the importance of literacy and allow for us to conquer poverty at the same time, we can accomplish many, many good things in the lives of children.

I thank Representative GRAVES for having introduced House Resolution 232. Again, I strongly encourage our colleagues to support the measure before the House.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 232, a measure recognizing and commending the Toys for Tots Literacy Program for its contributions in raising awareness of illiteracy, promoting children's literacy, and fighting poverty through the support of literacy.

I want to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON for allowing this important resolution to come to the floor today. I also want to thank my colleagues who joined me as co-sponsors in moving forward such an important tribute.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I was honored to introduce a resolution recognizing the achievements of the Toys for Tots Literacy Program. For over 60 years Toys for Tots has collected toy donations for underprivileged youth. Beginning in March 2008, Toys for Tots expanded beyond toy donations to taking on the challenge of rising illiteracy rates. With the help of the UPS Store and Mail Boxes Etc., and UPS Store owners like Bob and Share Tate of Kearney, MO, the Toys for Tots Literacy Program was formed to assist economically disadvantaged children compete and succeed in academics by providing them direct access to resources that enhance their ability to read and communicate effectively.

Through this initiative comes an inspiring story. Alferd Williams, a son of sharecroppers, had a simple and uncomplicated dream—he wanted to learn to read. That is how the then 70-year-old came to enroll in Alesia Hamilton's first grade class at Edison Elementary School in St. Joseph, Missouri.

With help from Alesia, Alferd learned to read. And in the process he inspired a movement to do more to combat illiteracy. The Toys for Tots Literacy program was started with the goal of providing the nation's least fortunate children with books and educational material.

Nationwide over 33 percent of fourth graders cannot read according to the 2007 annual Reading Report. There is an economic cost to taxpayers, but more importantly there is a cost to that individual. When a child does not learn to read, they lose out on a world of opportunity.

The story of Alferd Williams demonstrates that ventures such as the Toys for Tots Literacy program are important vehicles in raising awareness of illiteracy. Through the gift of a book, we can provide individuals with the tools they need to help break the cycle of poverty.

Please join with me in thanking Toys for Tots and congratulating Alferd and Alesia's

commitment to literacy by supporting this important resolution.

Mr. TONKO. I yield back my time, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 232.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ANTHONY DEJUAN BOATWRIGHT ACT

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1662) to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require child care providers to provide to parents information regarding whether such providers carry current liability insurance.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1662

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Anthony DeJuan Boatwright Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.

Section 658e(c)(2) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E)(i) by adding at the end the following: "The State shall include as part of its regulatory process for issuance and renewal of licenses to providers of child care services, a recommendation to each provider that it carry current liability insurance covering the operation of its child care business."; and

(2) in subparagraph (F)—

(A) in clause (ii) by striking "and" at the end,

(B) in clause (iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon,

(C) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

"(iv) a requirement that each licensed child care provider—

"(I) post publicly and conspicuously in the service area of its premises a notice specifying whether or not such provider carries current liability insurance covering the operation of its child care business;

"(II) provide to parents of children to whom it provides child care services a written notice stating whether or not such provider carries current liability insurance covering the operation of its child care business, including the amount of any such coverage;

"(III) obtain the signature of at least 1 parent of each such child on such written notice acknowledging that such parent has received such notice; and

"(IV) maintain such notice (or a copy of such notice) as signed by such parents (or a copy of the signed notice) in such provider's records during the period in which the child receives such services."; and

(D) in the last sentence by inserting "clauses (i), (ii), or (iii) of" after "Nothing in".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on October 1 of the 1st fiscal year that begins more than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1662 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. TONKO. I yield myself as much time, Mr. Speaker, as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1662, which amends the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require child care providers to provide information regarding whether such providers carry current liability insurance. Working parents depend on child care so they can earn an income needed to support their families, as well as ensure that their children are well cared for in a safe environment while they are working. As such, child care is an integral part of the daily routine for millions of American families with young children.

Nearly 12 million children under 5 years of age are regularly in child care settings. Research clearly shows us that high quality child care has a lasting impact on a child's development and well-being. Children in poor quality child care miss a crucial early learning opportunity and are more likely to arrive at kindergarten unprepared and unable to succeed in school. As a country, we need to be doing much more to invest in and support high quality child care programs so that children have the best opportunity to develop.

Back in 2001, Anthony DeJuan Boatwright's mother, Jacqueline Boatwright, placed her child in child care so that she could work to improve her and her son's life. She understood the child care program market. She shopped around and found a child care center. It was licensed by the State. It was clean, and it complied with Federal regulations under the Child Care Development Block Grant Act governing such items as the prevention and control of infectious diseases, building safety, premises access, and safety training for staff. However, little Anthony nearly drowned and ended up on life support due to an oversight at the child day care center.

Jackie Boatwright did not know that a child care program could take her money, harm her child, and escape punishment for their dire mistake.

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Because the childcare center had no liability insurance, the facility could not be financially responsible for any harm they could do. There wasn't a law, State or Federal, that required childcare centers to tell Ms. Boatwright either.

The bill before us makes a small but, indeed, important amendment to current law. This bill would require each provider to openly post whether or not they have current liability insurance covering the operation of the childcare business, and it requires each provider to supply parents with a written notice stating whether or not the provider carries liability insurance, including the amount of such coverage.

This legislation does not supersede any State regulations regarding facility licensure or insurance requirements. We are simply asking childcare providers to inform parents whether or not they hold liability insurance.

As we move forward reauthorizing this program, we must consider policies that foster effective learning environments where children can obtain the cognitive, the social and the academic skills needed to succeed. And we must make sure that parents can feel secure in the knowledge that their children will be safe from harm while out of their care.

This bill gives parents more information that they need to make educated decisions about daycare facilities. We must provide safe childcare programs for our children.

I thank Representative BARROW for introducing this bill, and ask my colleagues to support the measure.

I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss H.R. 1662, to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act to require childcare providers to supply parents with information regarding whether such providers carry current liability insurance.

The bill before us today requires that States, as part of their licensing requirements, recommend that childcare providers carry liability insurance. The bill also requires childcare providers to post whether or not they have current liability insurance covering the operation of their childcare businesses, and it requires providers to supply parents with a written notice stating whether or not the provider carries liability insurance.

Today, many parents depend on childcare in order to continue to work to support their families. As such, childcare is an integral part of the daily routine for millions of American families with young children. A cost-efficient childcare is very important

and, hopefully, this legislation, if it is passed, can be implemented without adding to the costs of these hard-working families.

Asking providers to post information on their liability insurance may give additional peace of mind if it's properly implemented, at little or no additional cost to these families and, hopefully, will avoid tragedies such as the one that affected 14-month old Anthony DeJuan Boatwright, who fell, and the accident left him in a semi-comatose state and ventilator-dependent.

I'd like to note that the bill before us does not reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. Hopefully, that bill will be brought before the Education and Labor Committee for reauthorization and full committee consideration during the 111th Session of Congress so that additional improvements can be made.

As we move forward, we must ensure that Federal policy provides States maximum flexibility in developing childcare programs and policies, and provides parents with the ability to choose from a variety of options so that parents can decide the care best suited for their children.

With those comments, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from Georgia, sponsor of H.R. 1662, a very thoughtful piece for the children of this country, Mr. BARROW, for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, back home in Augusta, Georgia, there's a little 9-year old boy by the name of Anthony DeJuan Boatwright, who's in a semi-comatose state and hooked up to a ventilator. He's been like this since September 9, 2001.

Now, Juan, as he's called, wasn't born that way. He was the victim of a tragic and a preventable accident. The worst of it is if his mom had been given the information that this bill requires, then this accident never would have happened.

Back in 2001, Juan's mother, Jacqueline Boatwright, was doing what millions of mothers and fathers all over the country do everyday. She dropped her child in daycare so that she could go to work to improve her family's life.

Ms. Boatwright had done her homework. She was a sophisticated consumer and she shopped around and found a daycare center that she felt comfortable leaving her baby boy with. It was licensed by the State of Georgia. It was clean. And most importantly, it complied with all sorts of Federal regulations under the Child Care Development Block Grant Act that are designed to prevent and control infectious diseases, ensure building safety, premises access, and mental health and safety training for staff.

But there was one thing that Jackie Boatwright did not know; that these folks could take her money, they could take her child, they could harm her

child, and they would not be financially responsible for any of the harm that they do. That's because they had no liability insurance. There was no law that required them to have any liability insurance, and there wasn't even any law that required them to tell her that.

Mr. Speaker, sure enough, that's just what happened. They ignored Juan long enough for him to find a bucket of water. Like every child that age, he had just enough strength to pull himself up to look over inside and to fall inside head first, but not enough upper body strength to push himself back up. It was a death trap, and little Juan fell into it. Well, Juan survived, but his life and that of his family have been ruined and changed forever.

Now, this bill would have prevented all of this from happening. It wouldn't have prevented this from happening by adding a whole new bureaucracy of daycare inspectors to watch the watchers. It would have prevented this from happening in the least expensive and most efficient way possible, by simply requiring the daycare center to tell parents that they're willing to accept the moral responsibility of taking care of your children, but they won't accept any of the financial responsibility for failing to do so.

That would have prevented this from happening, because if Jackie had known that she would have done what any other parent would do. She would have taken her business someplace else, someplace where they accept some degree of financial responsibility for the consequences of their negligence and incorporate that cost in the cost of doing business, just like every other financially responsible business does.

Now, Jackie has tried to make something positive out of all this. She's determined to prevent this from happening to anybody else. Thanks to her efforts, financial responsibility disclosure laws are now on the books in four States: Georgia, California, Virginia and New Hampshire. This bill will close the gap by requiring financial responsibility disclosure for licensed daycare facilities in the rest of the country.

In 2005, there were literally millions of kids in this country receiving daycare in facilities that are governed by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. Only a fraction of these kids live in the four States that have now stepped forward to enact financial responsibility disclosure laws. That means that millions of kids still go to licensed daycare facilities all around the country, today, where parents have no idea that their daycare centers can harm their child and accept none of the financial consequences for doing so.

This bill will give the parents of these millions of children the same information that parents are entitled to as a matter of law in the States of Georgia, California, Virginia and New Hampshire. These parents have just as

much need to know about the financial responsibility of the folks they give their kids to, and this bill will give them the same right to that information.

Now, this bill does not require any daycare facilities to actually go out and get liability insurance. It merely requires licensed daycare centers to tell parents whether or not they have insurance and, if so, how much. That's all. It then leaves it up to the parents to do what Jackie Boatwright would have done if only she had had this information, and that is to decide for themselves whether or not to leave their child with somebody who wants to accept the responsibility for caring for your child, wants to take your money for doing so, but is unable and unwilling to accept any of the financial consequences for failing to fulfill this responsibility.

Indirectly, Mr. Speaker, this bill actually does more than that. By giving parents the information that they have a right to know, it places a powerful economic incentive on all daycare centers to do what all of the responsible daycare centers are already doing, and that is to assume the financial responsibility that goes along with the moral responsibility of taking care of children in their care and to incorporate the cost of that into the cost of doing business. Anyone who wants to do business without doing that will be at a competitive disadvantage compared to those who do.

This approach gives the invisible hand of self interest the opportunity to do some good in the marketplace. Parents who place their children in daycare centers will have the information that they need in order to make the right choice for their children, and daycare centers that don't want to do the right thing by the children in their care will compete at a disadvantage compared to those who do.

We have truth in labeling. We have truth in lending, and we have truth in advertising. This is truth in daycare. The States have led the way, and now it's time for the Federal Government to follow their lead. The families who end up being harmed because they are kept in the dark deserve to know the truth.

Mr. PETRI. I have no further requests for time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from the State of Georgia, Representative BARROW, for introducing H.R. 1662.

Obviously, childcare decisions are major decisions for any family. And in addition to those cognitive and social and educational skills that are invested in our children, the sense of security and comfort that needs to be afforded the families who participate in these wonderful resources needs to be enhanced. And by simply and rightfully asking childcare providers to inform parents whether or not they hold liability insurance is a strengthener for

any family and any children in our country.

So, with all that being said, I strongly encourage our colleagues to support H.R. 1662.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1662.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALLIED LANDING ON D-DAY

Mr. KRATOVIL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 259) expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the House of Representatives for the acts of heroism and military achievement by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending them for leadership and valor in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 259

Whereas June 6, 2009, marks the 65th anniversary of the Allied assault at Normandy, France, which was known as Operation Overlord;

Whereas before Operation Overlord, the German Army still occupied France and the Nazi government still had access to the raw materials and industrial capacity of Western Europe;

Whereas Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower called Operation Overlord a "Crusade in Europe", telling the soldiers, sailors, and airmen who would participate in the operation that "The free men of the world are marching together to victory. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle.";

Whereas the naval assault phase on Normandy was code-named "Neptune", and the June 6th assault date is referred to as D-Day to denote the day on which the combat attack was initiated;

Whereas significant aerial bombardments and operations (including Operation Fortitude) by Allied forces during the weeks and months leading up to, and in support of Operation Overlord, played a significant role in the success of the Normandy landings;

Whereas more than 13,000 soldiers parachuted, and several hundred soldiers of the glider units participating in Mission Detroit and Mission Chicago landed, behind enemy lines to secure landing fields in the 24 hours preceding the amphibious landing;

Whereas soldiers of six divisions (three American, two British and one Canadian) stormed ashore in five main landing areas on beaches in Normandy, which were code-named "Utah", "Omaha", "Gold", "Juno" and "Sword";

Whereas the D-Day landing was the largest single amphibious assault in history, con-

sisting of approximately 31,000 members of the United States Armed Forces and more than 3,000 vehicles, which embarked on 208 vessels from Weymouth and Portland, England;

Whereas, of the estimated 9,400 casualties incurred by Allied troops on the first day of the landing, an estimated 5,400 casualties were members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas only five days after the initial landing, Allied troops secured a beachhead that was 50 miles long and 12 miles deep and was occupied by more than 325,000 soldiers;

Whereas on July 25, 1944, Allied Forces launched Operation COBRA to break out of the beachhead and began the liberation of France, which contributed to the destruction of the Nazi regime on May 7, 1945; and

Whereas members of the "greatest generation" assumed the task of freeing the world from Nazi and Fascist regimes and restoring liberty to Europe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 65th anniversary of the Allied amphibious landing on D-Day, June 6, 1944, at Normandy, France, during World War II;

(2) expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in Operation Overlord; and

(3) requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and programs to honor the sacrifices of their fellow countrymen to liberate Europe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. KRATOVIL) and the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. FALLIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KRATOVIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. KRATOVIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 259 recognizing June 6 as the 65th anniversary of D-Day, the massive amphibious landing on the beaches of Normandy, France, beginning the initial assault of Operation Overlord, and the eventual victory for Allied Forces of World War II.

I rise not only to recognize a day whose historical significance cannot be overstated, but to express gratitude and appreciation to the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in defense of freedom that day, and throughout the campaign.

Before Operation Overlord, the German Army occupied France, giving the Nazi government unrestricted access to the raw materials and industrial capacity of Western Europe. Hailed as a crusade in Europe by Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower, this successful undertaking forced Germany into a two-front war, subsequently beginning the liberation of